

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY ON SINO-U.S. POLICY

SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN TASS SUMMARY OF AUGUST 3 ARTICLE BY IZVESTIYA SENIOR COMMENTATOR MATVEYEV ON ALLEGED ANTI-SOVIET ACCENTS IN U.S. POLICY TOWARDS CHINA. ARTICLE STRIKES US AS SIGNIFICANT PRIMARILY AS FURTHER EXPRESSION OF SOVIET CONCERN ABOUT THE INFLUENCE OF WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS, ESPECIALLY DR. BRZEZINSKI, WHO ARE PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS IN SINO-U.S. RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH MATVEYEV PUTS THE PRESIDENT IN A LARGELY POSITIVE LIGHT BY QUOTING HIS ASSURANCE THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT USE CHINA AS A LEVER AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION, DR. BRZEZINSKI IS DIRECTLY CRITICIZED, AND THERE IS A HINT THAT MILITARY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS WERE DISCUSSED DURING THE VISIT OF THE S&T DELEGATIONS HEADED BY DR. PRESS.
END SUMMARY.

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1. SENIOR IZVESTIYA COMMENTATOR MATVEYEV IN ARTICLE "DANGEROUS GAME" HAS PROVIDED ANOTHER SOVIET "ALARM" ABOUT THE ALLEGED ANTI-SOVIET DIRECTION OF WASHINGTON'S POLICY TOWARDS THE PRC. HIS MAIN POINTS:

-- ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE "AT THE STATE LEVEL TO COORDINATE U.S. AND PRC POLICY TO HOSTILE PURPOSES AGAINST SOVIET UNION" AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING VIETNAM.

-- BRZEZINSKI SPEAKS OF "COMMON INTERESTS" WITH PEKING, SUGGESTS NUCLEAR WAR WOULD NOT MEAN THE DESTRUCTION OF HUMANITY, ETC. DR. PRESS IS NOT CITED BY NAME BUT REFERENCE IS MADE TO REPORTED DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE MILITARY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS DURING HIS VISIT TO PEKING.

-- THE PRESIDENT SAYS THE U.S. WILL NOT USE CHINA AS A LEVER AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. BUT WHY DO WASHINGTON OFFICIALS SPEAK ELOQUENTLY ABOUT MORAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS AND REMAIN SILENT ON THE "CRUDELY NEGATIVE, PROVOCATIVE AND INHUMANE" UTTERANCES OF PEKING?

-- CONSIDERING ALL THE EVIDENCE, WASHINGTON IS TRYING TO EXPLOIT THE ANTI-SOVIET DIRECTION OF PRC POLICY FOR ITS OWN IMPERIALIST ENDS. IN THE 1930'S WESTERN LEADERS SIMILARLY TRIED TO "PUSH FASCIST AGGRESSION" AGAINST USSR. THE RESULT WAS THAT ITS AUTHORS SUFFERED DEARLY ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

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-- U.S. TALKS ABOUT "NORMALIZATION" WITH CHINA SERVING PEACE AND DETENTE IS ONLY TALK. CHINESE POLICY REMAINS HARD-LINE AND NEGATIVE DESPITE THE ASSURANCES IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE ABOUT BENEFITS FOR PEACE AND RELAXATION OF TENSIONS.

2. MATVEYEV CONCLUDES THAT THE USSR "HAS AT ITS DISPOSAL ALL THE ESSENTIAL POSSIBILITIES TO FRUSTRATE AND NEUTRALIZE ANY SCHEMES AND COMBINATIONS HOSTILE TO US AND CAUSE OF PEACE." MATVEYEV ALSO REPEATS VIRTUALLY WORD-FOR-WORD THE WARNING IN THE JUNE 17 PRAVDA STATEMENT THAT ALIGNMENT WITH CHINA ON AN ANTI-SOVIET BASIS WOULD RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN THE MATTER OF REDUCING THE DANGER OF A NUCLEAR WAR AND LIMITING ARMAMENT.

3. COMMENT: THE SOVIETS SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT BY CONTINUING TO HAMMER AWAY PUBLICLY AT THE PRESIDENT'S WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS ON CHINA POLICY, THEY WILL UNDERMINE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS, WHILE

MINIMIZING PERSONAL AFFRONT TO THE PRESIDENT
HIMSELF. TOON

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